

600 huts razed for Sahar elevated road

DNA Correspondent

In a major demolition drive for an infrastructure project, officials of the city's development agency razed around 600 hutments on Friday to make space for the crucial Sahar Elevated Road project.

This elevated road will pass through a few residential colonies in Vile Parle and Andheri and after completion, will connect the Western Express Highway directly with Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport.

"This was one of the major demolitions for our road projects since January 2008, when construction for the Sahar Elevated Road project began. Around 350 hutments in Bamanwada, 100 in Sambhaji Nagar and 150 in Ambedkar Nagar were razed on Friday. We still have to demolish 100 hutments and the work will be completed by mid-December," said Dilip Kawathkar, spokesperson for Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA).

The affected slum dwellers have been rehabilitated either in Kurla or in Os-

DISPLACEMENT OR DEVELOPMENT

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100 more hutments are slated to be demolished but officials say that not all displaced people qualify for rehabilitation

hiwara in the resettlement colonies of the authority.

One of the major issues with the Sahar project affected people was that of eligibility.

According to senior MMRDA officials, most of the slum dwellers did not qualify for rehabilitation.

"As many of them had bought hutments after January 1, 1995, we had to disqualify them for rehabilitation. But, we have provided them temporary accommodation," said an official, requesting anonymity.

Maha mulls over deploying landslide warning system

It'll sound alert a day in advance, facilitating better disaster mgmt

Kanchan Srivastava

The state disaster management cell is planning to deploy real-time landslide monitoring and detection system in landslide-prone areas of Konkan and Western Ghats. The system, which is developed by Amrita University of Kerala, uses wireless sensor technology and will provide warning a day before an impending landslide, facilitating evacuation and better disaster management.

One such system deployed and working at Munnar (Idukki district) of Kerala was able to assess a probable landslide in July 2009, thus allowing the government to issue a public warning in time.

Apart from being funded by the department of science and technology, the varsity was supported by the European Union, Indian Space Re-



search Organisation (ISRO) and the Kerala government in developing the warning system. Stating that the system cost Rs5 crore, Amrita University Vice-Chancellor Dr Venkat Rangan said, "We started the project in 2006, soon after a major landslide in the area, and completed it within two years."

The system, which can scan a radius of seven acres, is being installed in the state on a pilot basis, following a letter by the state revenue and forest department to Amrita university asking for the

same. The varsity faculty will visit the landslide-prone areas in state in December-end to understand the soil and rock behaviour at probable sites. Uttarakhand and Assam are also planning to install the system on pilot basis.

Dr Maneesha Sudheer, the director of the Amrita centre for wireless networks and applications in Kollam who will lead the varsity team to Mumbai, said, "The system consists of 20 columns, each having 4-8 Italian-made sensors of different types, that go 23 metre underground to

MAJOR LANDSLIDES

JULY 26, 2005 (many parts in Maharashtra)

JULY 25, 2010 Nivsar in Kolhapur

JULY 19, 2011 Ratnagiri (10 killed, injured many)

AUG 16, 2010 in Andheri (1 killed and few injured)

Cause of landslides

Excessive cutting of mountains and rising population in the surrounding areas put pressure on the land. This might cause landslides

touch the rock base. The over 100 wireless sensors, running on solar power, record events under the rocks like vibration, pore pressure, stress, tilt meter, rain gauge and soil weakness."

All readings are constantly fed to a computer-based monitoring system that calculates the landslide risk. "Maharashtra may need a few different centres as it experiences rockslide routinely," said Dr Sudheer. The team has also started working on earthquake, flood and drought prediction system.

MMS — Mood Management System



POSITIVE THINKING
Rajyogi Brahmakumar Nikunjji

Om Shanti. There are days when we all feel down! Where no matter how bright and sunny the weather is, still we're in a bad mood. And most of us allow our moods to get the better of us. So, how do you deal with the mood swings? Do you eat yourself silly or spend time snapping at everyone who crosses your path? No one likes to be around a person who is in foul mood.

When in a huff, we tend to look for things to fuel the bad mood. Why? Because we are subconsciously trying to justify that our mood is valid, that it's OK to be in a

bad mood.

Well, one can stay gloomy for a while but there has to be a point when we say STOP - stop being moody. Give yourself a boost and pull yourself out of the mood. Do things that make you happy, think about happy thoughts and hang out with happy people. Happiness is contagious. If you're with a happy person, you're likely to feel happy too.

When you're in a better mood, make time to understand what put you in that mood. There's obviously a reason for it. Was it a particular event or person or thing? Notice what triggered your bad mood. Don't blame anyone. If you do, you're allowing others'

behaviour, situations, expectations, to control your mood. Take responsibility for your mood.

Go a bit deeper and really listen to your emotions. Know what really caused your mood. What's really bugging you? The aim is to avoid mood swings and become good mood managers. To do this you need to understand how your thoughts shape your moods. A simple way to strengthen our emotional muscles and master our moods is to start the day with the thought: Today I choose to be happy, to feel good, no matter what.

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